

Secretary General's letter of 30 January 1989,
requesting humanitarian aid for Afghanistan,
sent to:

The Prime Minister of

- 1 - France
- 2 - Belgium
- 3 - Italy
- 4 - Luxembourg
- 5 - Spain
- 6 - Portugal
- 7 - Ireland
- 8 - Denmark
- 9 - The Netherlands
- 10 - Greece
- 11 - Sweden
- 12 - UK
- 13 - Japan

and

- 14 - The Chancellor of W. Germany
- 15 - The President of Switzerland
- 16 - The President of France

with replies

المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

30 January 1989

You and your government have since 1979 shown great and valuable support for the people of Afghanistan against the Soviet invader, and this policy and action have been deeply appreciated by all who value a people's right to freedom, not least, of course by the Afghan people themselves.

I am sure you are aware that the people of Afghanistan are now facing an acute shortage of food and that this situation will worsen dramatically in the coming months.

It is my conviction that any government or organisation in a position to help the people of Afghanistan should prepare NOW to meet this challenge and to prevent the suffering and starvation of innocent people.

In this respect, the Islamic Council has already started a campaign to mobilise resources of food and other necessities and to get them airlifted into the major cities of Afghanistan immediately the need becomes evident.

I am writing to request you to pledge your government's aid and support to the people of Afghanistan, and to alert charitable and relief organisations in your country, for this humanitarian purpose. I think you will agree with me that the establishment of a stable government in Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal is of prime importance to the world at large. If a concerted effort can be made and organised now to get vital supplies of the necessities to the Afghan people, I think that the chances of stability in that country will be much higher.

I am confident of your support.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

Translation of letter received from the German Chancellor's office, dated 28 February 1989

Dear Secretary General,

The Chancellor has asked me to thank you for your letter of 30 January 1989, in which you requested our help for the needy peoples of Afghanistan.

The Federal Government agrees with you about the fact that the long-suffering Afghani people must be helped by humanitarian relief aid. In his statement on the occasion of the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on 15 February 1989, the Chancellor emphasised the willingness of the Federal Government, together with other members of the European Community, to contribute towards the international endeavour for the repatriation and resettlement of the refugees, the care of the war victims and the rebuilding of the country.

Already since 1979, the Federal Government has given humanitarian aid, which concentrated on the support of millions of refugees outside Afghanistan, but which was also of use to victims involved in the conflict within Afghanistan itself. Up until the end of last year, the Federal Government had donated 400 million Deutsch Marks for this relief aid, which also included food supplies and the so-called foreign aid for refugees. In addition to that, one must mention the considerable contributions of the many German officials working in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

As you know, the United Nations, together with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the appointed coordinator in this scheme, has put together an immediate aid plan and a rebuilding programme for Afghanistan. At the international aid conference, which convened

in New York on 12 October 1988, the Federal Republic of Germany promised 50 million Deutsch Marks for the period 1988/89, towards the United Nations aid programme. 10 million Deutsch Marks out of this total sum has already been paid out.

Depending on the further development of the situation in Afghanistan and the actual opportunities which may arise for implementing an aid programme for the needy war victims, the Federal Government is prepared to provide further means of support via the aid organisations of the United Nations, but also via German officials, who are already well experienced in such practical aid.

With best wishes,

Weigel

BUNDESKANZLERAMT

Referat 213

(Bei Antwort bitte angeben)

Bundeskanzleramt Postfach 5300 Bonn 1

5300 Bonn 1, den 28.02.1989
Postfach
Adenauerallee 141

Fernruf 0228/56- 2236
oder 0228/561 (Vermittlung)

Telex 886750
Telefax 0228/562357

An den
Generalsekretär des Islamic Council
Herrn Salem Azzam
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1 7EP
Großbritannien

Sehr geehrter Herr Generalsekretär,

der Herr Bundeskanzler hat mich gebeten, Ihnen für Ihr Schreiben vom 30. Januar 1989 zu danken, mit dem Sie um Hilfe für die notleidende Bevölkerung Afghanistans baten.

Die Bundesregierung stimmt mit Ihnen darin überein, daß der leidenden afghanischen Bevölkerung mit humanitären Hilfsmaßnahmen geholfen werden muß. In seiner Erklärung aus Anlaß des vollständigen Abzugs der sowjetischen Truppen aus Afghanistan am 15. Februar 1989 hat der Herr Bundeskanzler u.a. die Bereitschaft der Bundesregierung unterstrichen, zusammen mit den Partnern der Europäischen Gemeinschaft zu den internationalen Bemühungen zur Rückführung und Wiederansiedlung der Flüchtlinge, zur Versorgung der Kriegsoffer und zum Wiederaufbau des Landes beizutragen.

Bereits seit 1979 hat die Bundesregierung humanitäre Hilfe geleistet, die sich auf die Unterstützung der Millionen Flüchtlinge außerhalb des Landes konzentrierte, aber auch den Konfliktopfern innerhalb Afghanistans zugute kam. Für diese Hilfsmaßnahmen, die auch Nahrungsmittelhilfe und sogenannte flüchtlingsbezogene Entwicklungshilfe umfaßten, hat die Bundesregierung bis zum Ende des vorigen Jahres rd. 400 Millionen DM aufgebracht. Daneben sind die erheblichen Leistungen zahlreicher in Pakistan und Afghanistan tätigen deutschen NGOs zu erwähnen.

Wie Sie wissen, haben die Vereinten Nationen unter dem dazu eingesetzten Koordinator Prinz Sadruddin Aga Khan ein großes Soforthilfe- und Wiederaufbauprogramm für Afghanistan konzipiert. Bei der am 12. Oktober 1988 nach New York einberufenen internationalen Geberkonferenz hat die Bundesrepublik Deutschland für den Zeitraum 1988/89 50 Millionen DM für das VN-Hilfsprogramm zugesagt. 10 Millionen DM aus diesem Betrag sind bereits überwiesen worden.

In Abhängigkeit von der weiteren Entwicklung der Lage in Afghanistan und den tatsächlich gegebenen Möglichkeiten, Hilfsmaßnahmen für bedürftige Konfliktopfer durchzuführen, ist die Bundesregierung bereit, weitere Mittel über die Hilfsorganisationen der Vereinten Nationen, aber auch über die in der praktischen Hilfe bereits bewährten deutschen NGOs einzusetzen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Weigel

(Weigel)

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

3 March 1989

Mr. Salam Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1 7EP
ENGLAND

Dear Secretary General,

The Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D., has asked me to reply to your letter to him of 30 January, 1989 concerning Afghanistan.

The Irish Government fully shares your concern about the situation in Afghanistan and hopes that following on the recent Soviet withdrawal all parties concerned may find it possible to agree among themselves to a peaceful resolution of their differences, which would serve to spare the people of Afghanistan from any further suffering and would open the way for the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan, to which the international community has already pledged significant financial support.

At the European Council meeting of 27/28 June, 1988 the Taoiseach and the other European heads of Government called on all concerned to implement fully the peace process set out in the Geneva Agreements on Afghanistan and declared the readiness of the European Community and its Member States to provide humanitarian assistance under the programme to be carried out by the United Nations Coordinator, NGOs and the ICRC in favour of the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of the refugees and displaced persons. The Council also declared that the Community and its Member States were prepared to provide reconstruction assistance for Afghanistan after the formation of a representative Government and the establishment of internal peace. The Irish Government, as part of the general European Community response, announced at the United Nations Pledging

Conference on Afghanistan on 12 October, 1988 that it was allocating £70,000 to assist the United Nations coordinated relief programme for Afghanistan. More recently the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community, meeting in Madrid on 14 February, 1989, reiterated their continued support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to assist the formation of a fully representative Government in Afghanistan formed through a genuine act of self-determination. They stressed their readiness to contribute to the subsequent multilateral aid effort to resettle the refugees, help the innocent victims of war and reconstruct the country in close cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator.

You can be assured that Ireland will continue to monitor the situation in Afghanistan carefully and that together with the European Community and our fellow Member States we will endeavour to respond to the needs of the people of Afghanistan to the fullest extent possible.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Lenihan

Brian Lenihan, T.D.

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Copenhagen, March 7, 1989.
J.nr. 5409-23

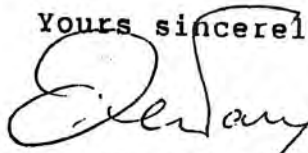
Mr. Salem Azzam, Secretary General,
Islamic Council,
16, Grosvenor Crescent,
London SW 17 ED.

Dear Secretary General,

I refer to your letter of January 30, 1989 concerning the serious situation which the people of Afghanistan is now facing, and the need to mobilize resources of food and other necessities.

In 1988, Denmark as the first country contributed un-earmarked funds to the United Nations' Afghanistan Emergency Fund. It is the intention of the Danish government during the first year of repatriation and reconstruction to contribute up to 60 million Danish kroner, or approximately 8,3 million US dollars, in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. This assistance will be given in close coordination with the United Nations' coordinator to organizations within the United Nations System, to ICRC and to non-governmental organizations. In this way, Denmark is supporting a concerted international effort to provide vital aid to the Afghan people.

Yours sincerely,


Ole Tarp
Counsellor.

[Date]

March 28, 1989

[Dnr]

764/89

Mr Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
LONDON SW1 7EP
Great Britain

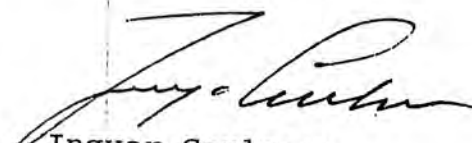
Dear Mr Azzam,

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 1989.

I am pleased to inform you that the Swedish Government has been in a position to contribute to the humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people since the beginning of 1980. This assistance has mainly been channelled through NGOs. We fully agree that it is now of utmost importance to continue this assistance in order to provide also adequate resources for the repatriation and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees and the social reconstruction of Afghanistan. In this work the United Nations has an important role to play.

The Swedish Government has already contributed to the UN Afghanistan emergency trust fund administered by prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and in this connection we have indicated that the Swedish contribution can be utilized for food, including transport and other necessities.

Yours sincerely,


Ingvar Carlsson



MINISTÈRE
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

LE DIRECTEUR DES RELATIONS
ÉCONOMIQUES INTERNATIONALES
ET DE LA COOPÉRATION

Luxembourg, 3 April 1989.

Dear Mr Secretary General,

Referring to your letter of January 30, by which you requested the Luxembourg Government's aid and support to the people of Afghanistan, I like to inform you that the Luxembourg charitable and relief organizations are aware of the difficult situation in Afghanistan and some of them are in contact with those international organizations active in the field.

The Government itself intends to contribute to some United Nations projects in Afghanistan.

I would like to wish a lot of success to the Islamic Council in its undertaking for the support for the people of Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely

Alphonse BERNIS

Mr. Salem AZZAM
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
UK - London SW1



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1989

Dear Mr. Salem Azzam,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 30 January. We too are anxious that the innocent victims of this war should not suffer further as a result of food supply problems. We are watching developments closely and keeping in touch with the international and UN agencies involved. These agencies, in particular the United Nations Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan, provide the best means of ensuring that assistance is delivered effectively where it is needed. I hope that if you are not already co-ordinating your efforts with them, you will consider doing so.

Last week, with the worsening situation in Kabul in mind, we donated a further £500,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNICEF specifically for mother and child programmes. We have already donated £10 million this financial year for Afghan refugee relief, including £6.75 million to UNHCR and £1.5 million to the ICRC. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1980, we have contributed £60 million towards humanitarian aid programmes for the victims of the conflict.

I entirely agree with you that the establishment of a stable government in Afghanistan is of prime importance. The present regime was illegally installed and armed by the Russians against the will of the Afghan people. It cannot survive. The bloodshed and suffering could halt tomorrow if it stepped down voluntarily and allowed the Afghan people as a whole to chose their own government through a genuine act of self-determination.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Powell

(C. D. POWELL)

Mr. Salem Azzam

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 23, 1989

Mr. Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW17EP UK

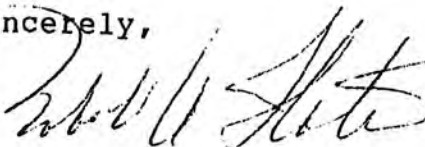
Dear Mr. Azzam:

Thank you for your letter of January 30 to President Bush on the situation in Afghanistan.

The United States commitment to the Afghan cause remains firm. We are confident that the goal of self-determination for the Afghan people will soon be realized. The illegitimate Kabul regime cannot long survive now that the Soviet troops have departed.

I have enclosed a statement President Bush released recently on the occasion of the completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. I know you will be pleased to see that the President shares your goals for a peaceful, independent and free Afghanistan.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Flaten
Director
Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan,
and Bangladesh Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

المجلس الإسلامي

Islamic Council

30 January 1989

President George Bush
The White House
Washington DC

Dear President Bush,

Firstly, may I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency and wish you success in the great duty you have undertaken. May God bless you and guide you.

Since 1979, the United States' Government has shown great and invaluable support to the people of Afghanistan against the Soviet invader, and this policy has been deeply appreciated by all who value a people's right to freedom, not least, of course, by the Afghan people themselves.

I am sure you are aware that the people of Afghanistan are now facing acute food shortage and that this situation will worsen dramatically in the coming months.

It is my conviction that any government or organisation in a position to help the people of Afghanistan should prepare NOW to meet this challenge and to prevent the suffering and starvation of innocent people.

In this respect, the Islamic Council has already started a campaign to mobilise resources of food and other necessities and to get them airlifted into the major cities of Afghanistan immediately the need becomes evident.

I am writing to request you to pledge your government's aid and support to the people of Afghanistan, and to alert charitable and relief organisations in the United States, for this humanitarian purpose. I think you will agree that the establishment of a stable government in Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal is of prime importance to the world at large. If a concerted effort can be made and organised now to get vital supplies of the necessities to the people of Afghanistan, I think that the chances of stability in that country will be much higher.

I am confident of your support.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

à la Direction

Bruxelles 13. IV. 1989

SG (89) D/4674

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 30th January 1989 concerning the situation in Afghanistan.

I can confirm that the Commission shares your concern and has in fact been following closely the situation in the region for the last 12 months in order to be prepared to react rapidly to any new development.

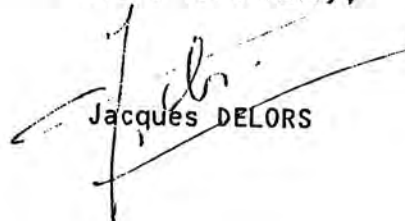
At the beginning of 1988 a task force was set up within the Commission with the aim of monitoring the situation, assessing the needs and coordinating the EEC and Member States efforts with those of other international bodies as well as non-governmental organisations. The Commission alone has already pledged a contribution of approximately 24 Mio Ecus of which the largest part consists in food aid but which also includes emergency aid, medical assistance and self-sufficiency projects, aiming at preparing the return of Afghan refugees and displaced persons and aiding other victims of the conflict.

If you add to this contribution those of the Member States, the total reaches over 100 Mio Ecus. In addition, the EEC continues to carry out its programmes in favour of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan by financing training, health and income-generating projects, and by supplying substantial quantities of food products; these were worth nearly 20 Mio Ecus in 1988.

All these contributions are put at the disposal of United Nations agencies, the Red Cross or non-governmental organisations.

As you can see from the above, the Commission is not only monitoring the situation but is already active in both humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation needs. Moreover, I can assure you that the Commission is ready to provide further assistance through the appropriate channels, in close coordination with its Member States as and when such additional assistance becomes necessary in future.

Yours faithfully,


Jacques DELORS

Mr. Salem AZZAM
ISLAMIC COUNCIL
16 Grosvenor Crescent

GB - LONDON SW1 7EP

30 January 1989

M Jacques Delors
Président de la Commission des Communautés Européennes
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Bruxelles

Dear Monsieur Delors,

I am sure you are aware that the people of Afghanistan are now facing acute food shortage and that this situation will worsen dramatically in the coming months.

It is my conviction that any government or organisation in a position to help the people of Afghanistan should prepare NOW to meet this challenge and to prevent the suffering and starvation of innocent people.

In this respect, the Islamic Council has already started a campaign to mobilise resources of food and other necessities and to get them airlifted into the major cities of Afghanistan immediately the need becomes evident.

I have today written to all the heads of government of the EEC countries requesting them to pledge their governments' aid and support to the Afghan people, and to alert relief and charitable organisations in their countries for this humanitarian purpose. I think you will agree that the emergence of a stable government in Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal is of prime importance to the world at large. If a concerted effort can be made and organised now to get vital supplies to the people, I think that the chances of stability in that country are much higher.

As President of the Commission for the European Community, you are in a position to emphasise this need to the member states and to coordinate their response. I am confident of your support.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General